

MNC-6132
5 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- January

I. GENERAL

A. All of January was spent, in consultation with our architect and visiting engineers from Washington, determining the extent of repairs and demolition required to correct substandard work on the substructure of our building discovered at the end of December. The contractor was instructed not to do any work involving concrete until this matter had been resolved, but to continue with other work on the site. Unfortunately, the architect's investigation took longer than expected and the contractor made only a token effort to carry out other work on the site during the investigation. A little more than one-quarter of the substructure is to be demolished, with extensive repairs required on the remainder of the groundbeams. If satisfactory repairs cannot be carried out, then additional demolition will be necessary. The extent of the delay to the project cannot be determined until we can evaluate the total repair situation, but early estimates are that this will put us behind schedule at least 2 months.

B. The bureau has launched an effort to recruit an additional Arabic monitor by placing advertisements in both Cypriot and Tunisian newspapers. Barring a successful local candidacy, a recruiting trip to Tunisia is planned in March.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In response to a 3 January request from Headquarters for increased attention to Libyan media, the bureau instituted an open watch on Tripoli radio during its hours of primary coverage, supplementing this effort with radio behavior FYI's. During hours in which London Bureau had primary coverage responsibility, the bureau maintained continuous backstop recording of the radio until our normal closure. In subsequent days, this backstopping effort was expanded to include nonoperational hours, as well. In light of our staffing constraints and the relatively static situation in Libya, the bureau was permitted to stand down from this continuous recording on 19 January; thereafter, our open watch on Tripoli radio during hours of primary coverage was followed by monitorial spotchecks until our close of business. We continued to supply media behavior FYI's through 27 January, while also keeping a close eye on the radio through 31 January as a result of Libya's response to U.S. naval maneuvers in the area.

2. Though it is not on regular coverage, our Greek monitors were able to obtain a copy of the 26 January edition of the Athens paper TO ETHNOS TIS KIRIAKIS, the Sunday version of the pro-government TO ETHNOS, which contained what was purported to be an exclusive interview with Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi at his headquarters in Tripoli. The interview, which included an appeal from the Libyan leader for West Europe to remove U.S. bases from its territory, was processed with no lag time.

3. In light of a 12 January AL-ITTIHAD report, cited by Doha QNA, quoting unidentified Libyan sources as saying that Egypt had requested a "cessation of media campaigns" between the two countries, the bureau examined monitored Egyptian media for possible substantiation. Although no reports of the alleged Egyptian request were monitored from Egyptian sources, the bureau has noticed that the daily evening commentary broadcast by the Cairo Voice of the Arabs, often vitriolic toward Al-Qadhdhafi and his activities, has not been observed to carry direct criticism of Libya or its leader since 7 January. The commentary has shifted attention toward Syria, events in the PDRY, Israel, and Mubarak's efforts to pursue Mideast peace.

4. The bureau advised the local embassy's regional security officer of a report in the 15 January edition of O AGON, an independent Cyprus paper not on coverage, citing an Interpol message to the Cyprus Government warning of possible terrorist plans to kidnap "foreign personalities."

5. The bureau spent considerable time this month seeking to follow the comings and goings of factional Lebanese radios. The Beirut Voice of Lebanon, originally a Phalangist station that was taken over by the Lebanese Forces last September, was subjected to heavy buzz-saw jamming on 15 January, and was heard 2 days later claiming to be speaking for the Phalangists once again. However, this alleged change of hands was shortlived, for the Voice of the Mountain indicated on the same day that the Lebanese Forces' Samir Ja'Ja had resumed control of VOL.

On 13 January, the Phalangists' Voice of Right and Dignity also went off the air as a result of jamming and resumed its transmissions 3 days later on different frequencies, according to press reports. The bureau has been unable to confirm.

Finally, VOL reported on 6 January that Syrian forces had stormed the Islamic Unification Movement's radio station near Tripoli in the south, confiscating its equipment and shutting it down. On 30 January VOL reported that the station had resumed its broadcasts on FM, but again the bureau has been unable to confirm this information.

6. Following a week's sampling of the pro-Hizballah clandestine Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon, the bureau concluded that regular coverage is not currently warranted.

7. On two occasions, 10 and 15 January, the bureau was obliged to resort to Embassy ☐ fastcasts to clear traffic backlogs. We also scheduled round-the-clock teletypist shifts on three occasions to clear traffic backlogs at our switching center.

STAT

B. Technical

1. In connection with the Bureau's efforts to upgrade equipment on our circuits to the Cyprus Foreign Ministry and Public Information Office, a low-level to high-level interface was constructed for use with the newly installed Addmaster tape reader.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Deputy Chief [] broke his leg in a motorcycle accident 4 January. He was medevaced to Frankfurt 7 January to have the leg reset after doubts developed over local medical efforts. He returned to duty 21 January, but the cast will not be removed until April. He is hobbling testimony to the bumper sticker: Bikers have more fun. STAT

2. [] arrived on 6 January for a 3-month editorial training TDY. STAT

3. Editor [] returned from his stateside R&R on 18 January. [] also received the happy news that he was promoted to GS-11 effective 2 February. STAT
STAT

B. Visitors

1. RECD engineers [] and [] visited Nicosia 22-30 January to assess difficulties in the construction of our new bureau. STAT
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[]
Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for January 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	299380
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	84320
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1031

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	8565.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA

Beijing in

Persian to Iran

0

CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)

(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in

Arabic

14600

(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in

Arabic

14700

CYPRUS

Nicosia Domestic Service in

Greek

5810

Nicosia Domestic Service in

English

260

*Nicosia Television Service in

Greek

290

*Nicosia Television Service in

English

230

* (Editorial Report in

Greek)

1990

Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in

English

1590

Nicosia ELEVTHEROTIPIA in

Greek

1030

Nicosia I SIMERINI in

Greek

1710

Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in

Greek

0

Nicosia KHARAVYI in

Greek

3560

Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in

Greek

0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
*Nicosia O AGON in Greek			660
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek			130
Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS tis DHEFTERAS in Greek			0
*Nicosia TA NEA in Greek			1540
*Nicosia THE CYPRUS WEEKLY in English			300
EGYPT			
Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic	21550		
*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic	650		
Cairo MENA in Arabic		61530	
Cairo MENA in English		2450	
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		26650	
GREECE			
Athens Domestic Service in Greek	17980		
Athens ATHENS NEWS in English			3080
Athens ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			3910
*Athens ETHNOS TIS KIRIAKIS in Greek			2210
Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek			1760
Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek			410
Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek			2620
IRAQ			
Baghdad in Persian to Iran	0		
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	45940		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
*Beirut Domestic Service in English	2570		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	33050		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	800		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			1730
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			2130
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			1340
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	260		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
* (Editorial Report in Turkish)			2780
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			8720
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			1990
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			1170
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			1270
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			700
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	770		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	960		